



Acton 2020: a Comprehensive Community Plan

Values, Guiding Principles, Goals And Objectives

Changes from Phase I

The current goals and objectives can be found in PDF form here:

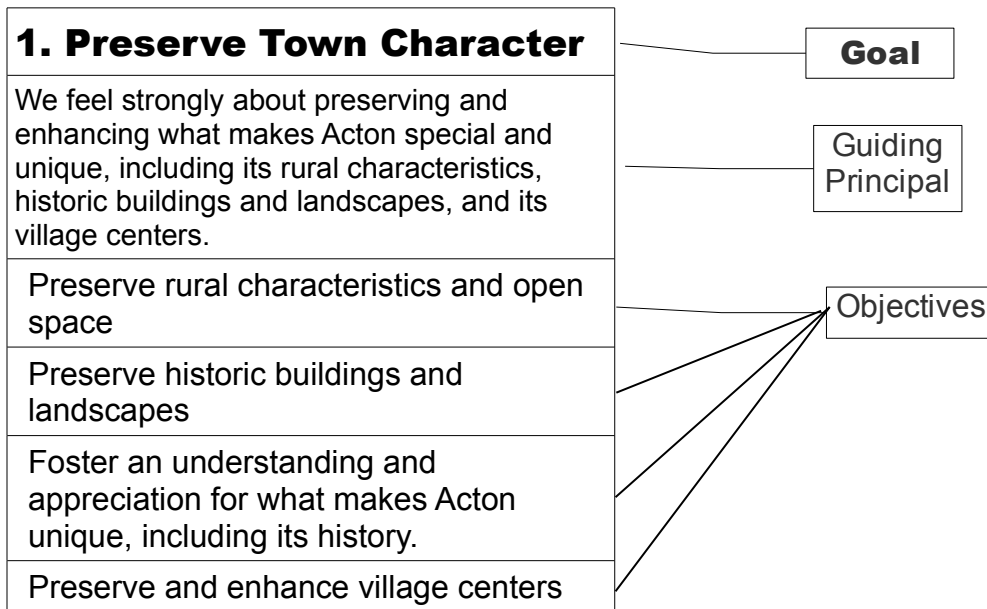
<https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-32181>

or in web form here:

acton2020.info/goals

Phase I ended with “Emerging Vision and Goals for Acton's Future”. These included a set of six numbered one- and two-word **Values**, corresponding action-oriented **Goals 1-6**, explanatory paragraphs for each value known as **Guiding Principles**, and a list of **Objectives** to go with each goal.

Here's part of the current phase II goals, with the parts labeled with the names used in Phase I. This is for the value “Town Character”:



The Phase II committee, with the help of our consultants, held a public workshop and many open meetings, consulted with volunteer advisors, and reviewed the goals and objectives in light of all the feedback. Based on all that, the committee has approved a few changes. In the text below **additions are marked in yellow highlight like this** and **removals are marked in cross-outs like this**:

Pervasive Changes		
	<u>What</u>	<u>Why</u>
A	“ To ” (removed from the beginning of every goal)	Repeated word was distracting from content

B	Objectives changed from Title Casing to regular casing .	Reading Too Much Stuff in Title Casing Is Exhausting. Kept the goals title-cased, but not all the objectives.
C	Preserve and Enhance Town- owned Assets.	Made this goal specifically about Town-owned assets, and thus moved some objectives to other goals. This goal was becoming too general, and the objectives were multiplying.

Changes to Goals		
2	Increase Awareness Regarding the Need to Plan for Sustainability Ensure Environmental Sustainability .	Feedback from the public workshop and volunteer advisors was to make the Sustainability goal and objectives stronger, more active and specific with a focus on the environment.
7	Maintain and Improve Financial Well-being of the Town	This is a new goal. This helped capture many of the comments from the public workshop and our volunteer advisors. See the guiding principle and objectives for more details.

Changes to Guiding Principles		
1	Town Character We feel strongly about preserving and enhancing what makes Acton special and unique, including its rural and historic characteristics rural characteristics, historic buildings and landscapes , and its village centers.	Part of change C above: historic buildings and landscapes moved here from “Town Assets”
2	Sustainability We value taking responsibility for our actions and planning for the future. We are mindful of our actions today because we are considerate of future generations living tomorrow. As Acton residents, we recognize that our health and well-being depend on protecting the web of life of which we are a part. Therefore, it is vital that we live and work here in a manner that supports that web and the well-being of people everywhere, including future Acton citizens.	Added strength and specificity to Sustainability goal.
3	Connections: We recognize that a community that is connected is safer, stronger, and provides more opportunity opportunities for meaningful interaction...	Word-smithing on the verb case.
4	Community Gathering: We value the small town feeling and appreciate the sense of community that results from frequent opportunities for interaction. We support providing places for casual social interaction and facilities for organized events which that bring members of the community together. We believe in offering opportunities for intergenerational experiences, and for sharing of inter-cultural celebration, (e.g., community/senior center, park, farmer's market, cultural venues, community garden). and we aim to provide recreational opportunities for all ages.	We didn't want the goal to specify the possible solutions in the principle section, so we removed the reference to specific facilities, and even the word facility itself. And we corrected a “which” to a “that”. And we moved “recreational opportunities” to this goal.

5	Inclusion and Diversity: We value a diverse population and our diversity in all its forms, reflecting a range of ages and socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. We wish to foster respect, promote interaction and actively support encourage a wide variety of individuals to live, work, and play in our community. This includes a range of ages, and socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.	This language was adjusted to flow better, and to be more welcoming. No change in intent.
6	Town Assets: We value our Town assets and wish to preserve and enhance them. These include our open spaces, schools, historic sites, municipal properties and facilities, commercial areas, recreational areas, and our neighborhoods.	Part of change C above: removed references to places that are not all owned by the town.
7	Financial Well-being: We believe it is critical for us to sustain and strengthen our town's financial well-being. This includes commercial and economic development that reflects the long-term goals of both businesses and residents of the community	A new principle for a new goal.

Changes to Objectives		
1	Town Character Preserve rural and historic characteristics characteristics and open space. Preserve historic buildings and landscapes. Foster an understanding and appreciation for what makes Acton unique, including its history. Preserve and enhance village centers.	Part of change C above: added references to some places that used to be in the preserve town assets goal. Also: made it more specific that "historic characteristics" means historic buildings and landscapes.
2	Sustainability Define and discuss sustainability To protect the quality and quantity of the water that cycles through our ground water, surface water, drinking water, waste water, and storm water systems. To reduce waste and the accumulation of toxins in our environment. To reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal uses. To move toward patterns of land use and land protection that support broad biodiversity, soil preservation, and healthy local agriculture.	Added strength and specificity to Sustainability objectives.
3	Connections Improve walking and biking experience Explore ways to Improve circulation around town Improve Promote communication amongst town government, citizens, schools, and the business community. Support and strengthen neighborhoods	Strengthen objectives and make them more specific. Also, part of change C above: moved "neighborhoods" here from town assets.

Changes to Objectives		
4	Community Gathering Expand senior / community center Increase amount and variety of restaurants Provide a community facility large enough to accommodate a variety of uses and a wide range of programming. Maintain and improve existing gathering spaces and look for opportunities to create informal gathering spaces. Support additional cultural activities Maintain and increase recreational opportunities	Remove specific reference to senior center vs community center in objectives, and change to broader objectives. “Restaurants” will become part of the action ideas for the economic development objective. “Recreational opportunities” moved here from Town Assets as part of change C, above.
5	Inclusion and Diversity Support all ages. Support socio-economic diversity households of all income levels. Embrace cultural diversity Support the disabled community citizens with disabilities in participating fully in the life of the community. Embrace cultural diversity	“Income”: Less technical. “Disabilities”: more specific.
6	Town Assets Protect existing and acquire additional Town-owned open space. Support excellence in schools. Improve commercial areas and promote economic development. Maintain and increase recreational opportunities. Support and strengthen neighborhoods. Preserve historic buildings and landscapes. Maintain town municipal properties and facilities.	Part of change C above : moved some objectives to other goals, and added “municipal” and “facilities” to make sure to cover all the infrastructure.
7	Financial Well-being Improve existing commercial areas. Promote economic development that supports our other goals. Achieve a balance of services and taxes. Support the ability of all residents to stay in Acton for a lifetime.	All new, gathered from the other goals and objectives, and from public feedback.